

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 040759Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1024
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, MY, ASEAN
SUBJECT: MARCOS ON SABAH CLAIM

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF Q AND A AT PRESIDENT MARCOS' MARCH 1
PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING PHILIPPINE CLAIM TO SABAH:
1: ON JANUARY 18 LAST MONTH IN INDONESIA THE WIRE SERVICES
QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AS SAYING THAT THE PROJECTED
TRIPARTITE SUMMIT STEMS FROM PHILIPPINE WILLINGNESS TO GIVE
UP ITS CLAIM TO SABAH. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THIS SIR?

A: WE NEVER TALKED ABOUT SABAH IN ANY OF THE MEETINGS WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK OR WITH ANY OTHER OFFICER FROM ANY
COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SABAH?

A: AS I SAID WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR POSITION. I AM SURE
THAT MINISTER MALIK WAS MISQUOTED BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THAT
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HE WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, FRANKLY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. MARCOS SPOKE WITH CONVICTION TINGED WITH CONCERN. IN THE PAST, GOP HAS SIGNALLED THAT IT WOULD DROP DORMANT CLAIM TO SABAH ON CONDITION THAT MALAYSIANS FORSWEAR INTERFERENCE IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. WHATEVER CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CURRENT THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT MAY BE, HE IS CLEARLY NOT ABOUT TO PUBLICLY THROW AWAY HIS BEST BARGAINING CHIP AT A TIME WHEN PROBLEM IN SOUTH REMAINS AS CRITICAL AS EVER AND FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY.

SULLIVAN

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